

**Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change  
in the wider Black Sea area  
adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the  
Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the  
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)**

**(Thessaloniki, 26 November 2010)**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States: the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine, met in Thessaloniki, on 26 November 2010, and

*Being aware* that climate change, constituting a global problem resulting mostly from human activities, is a common challenge faced by all countries and therefore it requires global solutions as well as regional cooperation,

*Recognizing that* the Black Sea area is vulnerable to many negative impacts of climate change and therefore our countries should work towards a binding international agreement on climate change,

*Recognizing* also the importance of developing and implementing regional approaches as appropriate for combating the negative impacts of climate change as well as for reversing continuing trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation,

*Acknowledging* that environmental technologies and practices aiming at protecting the land and marine environment, biodiversity and natural resources can secure a future of welfare for our region,

*Being convinced* of the importance of assuring the sustainable development of the wider Black Sea area and maintaining a long-term development process to the benefit of all,

***Acknowledging*** the need in the Black Sea region for more effective action by sharing best practices experience and tools in mitigating climate change and seek common solutions to the benefit of all,

***Being aware of*** the response to climate change as an opportunity for promoting green economy, creating new prospects for enhanced regional cooperation and economic development in the region,

***Considering*** the importance of elaborating forward-looking approaches in the wider Black Sea area towards green development, as part of a coordinated regional response to climate change and a basis for sustainable development, that will enhance economic activity, investment, entrepreneurship and employment, by also focusing on a gradual turn towards new technologies, including cleaner energy and higher energy efficiency projects,

***Stressing*** that the responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter,

***Taking note*** of the important contribution of the civil society in highlighting and tackling the issues related to climate change and environment, as well as their extensive expertise and know-how in this field,

***Welcoming*** the “Black Sea turns Green” approach, proposed by the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC, which aims to reaffirm the role of the BSEC as a leader in regional cooperation,

Have agreed to:

**1. Endorse** the vision to transform the BSEC region into a model of clean energy by adopting low pollutant practices through resource efficient and climate resilient economies, in mitigating climate change.

**2. Develop** regional policy approaches on mitigating climate change with respect to the capabilities of the countries concerned and at the same time ensuring energy security and a sustainable development process providing for growth, employment and welfare.

**3. Strive to** develop common approaches on climate change demonstrating leadership and strong commitment to action in the international arena, aiming at contributing to international and regional agreements through seeking the possibility of developing common policy positions, as well as project- based initiatives.

**4. Continue** their work on the adoption of regional regulations and development programmes, so as to set the framework for attracting public and private investment in all sectors that can contribute to this vision.

**5. Benefit** from the existing network of civil society organizations dealing with climate change and environmental issues in the Black Sea area.

**6. Strengthen** collaboration on addressing common challenges by elaborating shared plans and initiatives concerning the implementation of models of environmental risks assessment, especially early warning prediction models, with the aim of taking joint measures and increasing safety precautions against disasters in the wider Black Sea area.

**7. Further increase** public awareness on ecological issues for the long-term safety of the Black Sea environment.

**8. Commit** themselves, within this framework, to contributing to the success of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.